
Archdiocese of Louisville

Youth Retreat for V Encuentro (7th-12th grade)

Time Frame: 9:00am – 4pm (Team needs to meet at 8am to set up.)

Materials Needed: Name Tags, markers, box games, decks of cards, prayer table with cloth and Our Lady of Guadalupe statue, 1 large St. Teresa of Avila candle and 1 votive candle for each, candle lighter, journal, CD player, pens, St. Teresa Prayer in English, Silhouette poster, 2 different sticker dots per person, each small group needs a set of post-its, a footprint shape each, a hand-shape each, poster with large cross, 1 white paper cross each, masking or painters' tape, Encuentro cross.

9:00-9:30am REGISTRATION and Informal games set out.

9:30--10am Explanation of the V Encuentro
Introductions
Icebreakers/Mixers
(Group ends up sitting in tables according to their grades – middle school together and HS together.)

10:00-10:15am Opening Prayer (English and Spanish)
People remain seated for the first part of the prayer.

Leader states: In the name of the Father, the Son.....En el nombre de....
Repeat after me: Here We Are! Present! Aquí estamos, ipresente!

Young Adult Leader 1: O God, We young Hispanics, conscious of being a people with our own identity

Young Adult Leader 2: Nosotros, jovenes hispanos conscientes de ser un pueblo de identidad propia

Young Adult Leader 3: Born of common roots, cultural traditions, language and faith, and united in our diversity,

Young Adult Leader 1: Nacidos de unas raices, tradiciones culturales, lengua y fe comunes y unidos en esta diversidad,

Young Adult Leader 2: We hear your call to work together, participate in community, and speak in your name to the Church.

Young Adult Leader 3: Sentimos tu llamado trabajamos en equipo, participamos en comunidad, y hablamos en nombre tuyo a la Iglesia.

Young Adult Leader 1: Each of you is asked to come forward and light your candle and then go back to your seat and remain standing with your candle.
(Once all participants are back to their seats....)

Young Adult Leader 2: And so God, we state:
Here We Are! Aquí estamos, ipresente! (Repeat)

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Young Adult Leader 3: Walking as one people, we walk with hope. In the company of Mary, Mother of all believers, we ask that you help us in the task you have entrusted to us.

Young Adult Leader 1: Caminando como todos los pueblos, caminamos con esperanza, en compañía de María, Madre de los creyentes, te pedimos nos ayudes en la tarea que nos confías.

Young Adult Leader 2: We state: Here We Are! Aquí estamos ipresente! (Repeat)
In the name of the Father....En el nombre.... Amen.

10:15-11:00am **Theme 1: Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus**

Talk 1: Recognizing Christ in Our Lives (20-25 minutes)(Distribute journals and pens)

- Adult Leader 1 states first: “A few days after Jesus was crucified and died, two of his followers were walking away from Jerusalem and going home. They were talking about all of the sadness and fear that they and the other disciples experienced when they all realized Jesus had died.”
- Adult Leader 2: Read Scripture: Luke 24: 13-15 (Spanish)
- Young Adult 1Talk: Point to cover: Share a story of a time in your own life where you were in crisis and did not recognize Jesus in your midst. (Name someone who helped you with your crisis who you now realize was sent by Jesus to be with you to help you cope.) (At end of talk, invite the participants to take out their journals and pens and take time to write about the thematic topic.)
- Journal Reflection: Think about a situation in your own life (good or bad) when you did not recognize the Lord in your midst. Write 2-5 sentences describing that time and some of the difficulties you were facing.
- Sharing at small group tables. Invite those who want to share their stories. Allow time for all but do not force anyone to share. (Allow people to “Pass.”)

11:00-11:05am Re-gather with Song: “Cristo No Tiene Pies en el Mundo”

11:05-11:35am Silhouette Activity - Display the poster of the silhouette in front of large group.

Prayer Card for each youth: Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila. Read together in English:

(God has no body on this earth but yours; No hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the only eyes with which he looks down on the world with compassion. Yours the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours the hands he now has to bless us.)

Small group tables need 2 different colored sticker dots per person. Brainstorm, discuss and then write on sticker dots:

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- First sticker dot: What do you “see” in your school, community and the Church that reveals some unique needs of Hispanic people?
- Second sticker dot: What do you “see” that the Church could do to make young Hispanics feel more welcomed or could help them to feel that they belong?

Write on stickers & when called forward, place stickers to the area of the silhouette by the eyes.
(This is data needed by USCCB and Archdiocese of Louisville).

11:35-11:45am Bathroom/Stretch Break

11:45-12:40pm **Theme 2: With Words and Actions: Do It!**

- Adult Leader 2 reads Scripture: Luke 24:17-20 (Road to Emmaus – What Are You Discussing?)
- Discuss at small group tables: (Watch time) Think of situations of discrimination, bigotry, prejudice that you have experienced because you are Hispanic. Who or what helped you to cope with this? Share.
(Leaders at 12:05 end with: “We are never alone in our struggles and pain. EACH ONE OF US is a CHILD OF GOD! Jesus hears you and knows how hard it is sometimes to walk as a young person who is Hispanic.)
- Journal exercise: Write about a positive and/or negative situation your have experienced in your life that led you to turn to Jesus and/or led you to doubt your faith in Jesus.
- Discussion: How can the church help you stay connected to Jesus? (List ideas on post-its and stick to bottom of silhouette by the feet.)
(This is data needed by Archdiocese of Louisville).

12:40-1:10pm Lunch (Begin with prayer)

1:10- 1:15pm Re-gather with song: “Pescador de Hombres”

1:15-1:45pm **Theme 3: Walking Together With Christ**

- Adult Leader 1 reads Scripture: Luke 24: 25-29. (Beginning with Moses, he explained all the scriptures that referred to him.)
- Journal Exercise: (1) Write about an experience when someone welcomed you at your school or when a friend or family member welcomed you to their home or a family event.
(2) Write about an experience of being rejected.
- Sharing: How did the experience of welcome make you feel? What can we (the church including all of us here) do to respond to people who have felt rejected?

- Small group leader states: When we walk with or accompany someone who is hurting, we are walking with Jesus. Distribute footprint shapes.

Ask: Who do you know who has been rejected because they are Hispanic? State: On footprint:

(1) Write the name of the person who has been rejected.

(2) Write something the Church does or can do to walk with you and other young Hispanics to affirm your gifts and talents and to accompany you when you are suffering?

(This is data needed for USCCB and Archdiocese of Louisville.)

- Stick footprints to poster at bottom by feet.

1:45- 2:30pm **Theme 4: Bearing Fruits of New Life**

- Adult Leader 2 reads Scripture: Luke 24: 29-33a (Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us?)
- Young Adult 2 Talk: A Time I Felt Close to God/Jesus/Church (20-25 minutes)
Points to Cover: A situation where I felt close to God/Jesus/Church. What I discovered about myself. How this situation changed me. Use the phrase: "My heart was burning within me with love for the Church when...)
- Film Clip: You Tube "The Young Latino Church"/ Catholic Extension (4 mins.)
- Journal: What would help your heart to burn with love for the church (What will keep you involved in the Church?)
- Small group discussion. Leaders write these ideas down.
What can the Church do to involve more Hispanic youth in its activities and programs?
What can you do to use your talents to lead your friends and other Hispanic youth to become more involved in the Church?
(This data needed by USCCB and Archdiocese of Louisville)

2:30-3:00pm **Theme 5: Celebrating the Joy of Being a Follower of Jesus**

- Adult Leader 1 reads Scripture: Luke 24: 32-35 (The Disciples set out, met the apostles and shared all that happened on the road)
- Small group leaders share from own lives when they have used their hands to help others who have experienced difficulties in their lives. How was this helping time motivated by the example of Jesus?
- Each person is given a hand-shape. Discuss and then invite the members to write on the hands: ¡MANO DE DIOS! Also write how they can "Be like Christ" by helping others who are experiencing a difficulty or sadness. (Example: I would listen to their problem like Christ did! I would pray for them to God the Father like Christ did!)

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- Each given tape and they stick their hand on the poster near the hands of the silhouette.

3:00-3:05pm Play song: "Guíame Señor"

3:05-3:45pm Our Rich Traditions: Religious Celebrations Unique to Hispanic Peoples

- Young Adult Leader 3 shares: "We should be proud to be a Catholic who is Hispanic. Our culture has a rich history and unique traditions that celebrate our faith. When we participate in fiestas we are not just celebrating what is important to us as a community but we are also involving ourselves in religious celebrations that are unique to our culture.
- College Leaders take turns sharing their memories and appreciation for Hispanic religious celebrations:
Day of the Dead, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Posadas, Way of the Cross, Quinceañera , etc.
- Small groups: Each shares their favorite religious fiesta and why they want their own future children to be able to celebrate the same kinds of fiestas.

3:45-4:00pm Closing Prayer Service

Opening Song: Ardía Nuestro Corazón

Place the large cross poster in place visible for all. Each participant is given a white paper cross.

Young Adult Leader 1: As we end our day, let us look at the large cross.
The cross is a symbol of life, not death. The cross is the greatest proof of how much Jesus loves us. The cross leads us to life with God.

Young Adult Leader 2: All of us are a part of the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus died for us. The cross is like a Tree of Life. It bears fruit of new life through the resurrection of Jesus, through our own resurrection in the future and in our actions in the name of Jesus.

Young Adult Leader 3: Take your small white cross and write some signs of life that you experienced today. Maybe it was that you made some new friends so you would write: "New Friends." Maybe you realize that it is good to be Hispanic so you would write "I Am Proud to Be Hispanic." Maybe you learned how to cope with discrimination and so you would write, "I Am a Child of God!" ... or something else in your own words.

(Give them time to write their thoughts on the small cross.)

Now let us place our crosses on the Large Cross of Jesus.

(Pieces of tape will be provided to tape the small crosses to the large one.)

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The song: "Somos Un Pueblo en Marcha" is played. *As people return to their seats they can sing along.*

Young Adult Leader 1: Let us pray, let us now share prayers of petition: Please state after each petition: ¡OREMOS SENOR!

Lord, we bring to you the life of our families, communities, and friends;
help us to draw them closer to you. OREMOS SENOR

Young Adult Leader 2: Lord, you saved us by giving your life for us;
By uniting our lives to your Cross,
Help us to be instruments of your salvation in the world. OREMOS SENOR

Young Adult Leader 3: Lord, on the Cross you embraced all people as your brothers and sisters.
Help us to be inspired by this day and by your cross
So that we welcome all Hispanic young people into our communities. OREMOS SENOR

Adult Leader: My young brothers and sisters, turn to your small group leaders now and they will trace the sign of the cross on your forehead wishing for you all the blessings of our God.

(Small groups gather in a small circle and the leader blesses each person in their group by tracing a cross on their foreheads and stating as doing so: "Go now and be proud that you are Catholic and be proud of you are Hispanic and I will pray for you." Each is given their V Encuentro cross.)

Closing Song: "Nuestra Alegría"